



ASMC Newsletter . . . Mount Vernon Chapter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harry Ravert, Vice President

Pat Ackerman asked me to write the President's Message this month as a way of introducing myself to the membership as the new chapter vice president. I grew up in Wyoming Valley, which is a 3-mile wide 22-mile long valley in NE Pennsylvania that encompasses Wilkes-Barre and the surrounding communities. It is a state of mind as much as a place. My wife and best friend of 35 years, Louise, grew up in Harrisburg, Pa. We have 2 grown sons and one grandson, all living in Northern VA. Louise is the supervisor for Point of Care Testing at Potomac Hospital. I am employed by FC Business Systems, Corp. contracted to provide Program Analysis support to PM Enterprise Infrastructure in PEO EIS. I am a retired DA civilian and have worked on Ft Belvoir for 20 years. I have been a member of the ASMC Mount Vernon Chapter since it was chartered.

My first job with the Army was almost 33 years ago as a Systems Accountant for the 1st US Army before TRADOC and FORSCOM were created. At the time, CONUS installations were organized by their region of the country and fell under one of the numbered Army commands, 1st through 6th Army. After one year, I was assigned to the US Army Major Item Data Activity, which eventually grew into the Depot System Command (DESCOM). From there I PCS'd to Zweibruecken, Germany. Zweibruecken is a small city near the French border. We lived in a nearby village that celebrated its 1,000 year anniversary while we were there. One of our sons was born there.

When the Army made a decision to move most depot level work back to the US and push much of its stocks from overseas depots to Corps Support Commands, we moved about 40 miles up the Autobahn and lived on Sembach Air Base instead of returning to HQ, DESCOM. After 2 years, including 3 months when the whole family had the opportunity to come back to the States while I attended the Air University at Maxwell AFB, AL, we moved to Stuttgart where I worked on the HQ VII Corps staff as Chief, Accounting Policy and Procedures for appropriated funds. Our quarters were a 5-minute walk from the office. Quite a bit different from Northern VA traffic.

We moved to Northern VA in 1979. I worked at HQ AMC for 3 years then came to Ft Belvoir as Resource Manager for Project VIABLE. I was at PM VIABLE through its life cycle and continued as the RM chief when the organization transitioned from a PM to an ISC Field Operating Activity named Sustaining Base Network Activity (SBNA). I was the last Director, SBNA and oversaw the transfer of its data centers to AMC, which later transferred them to DISA. When SBNA closed in 1991, I went to work with Command and Control Systems and was the BMD chief at PM AWIS later renamed PM Strategic and Theater Command and Control Systems (STCCS) until retiring in August 2001.

After 3 months of retirement, I decided to come back to work. Looking back on the years I worked for the government, the people I have worked with over the years have been great and every job I ever had was a good opportunity. I am totally serious when I say I am glad to have been there and glad to be back.

5 December 2002 CEC Meeting

The 5 December 2002 CEC meeting was canceled due to the beautiful snow. The next CEC meeting is scheduled for 16 January.

Chapter News

FREE MONEY!!!

....And now that I have everyone's attention! Our 2003 High School Scholarship Program has begun. Applications for our scholarships can be found at the local high schools, at our monthly luncheons, or by calling our Scholarship Director Diane Andrews at 703-706-2211.

As an organization, we are dedicated to promoting comptrollership through education. Annually we provide several \$1,000.00 awards to deserving students pursuing a degree in a field related to financial management. The funds raised during the PDD and the various fundraisers will provide these scholarships. In addition to our local awards, we also will nominate two of our chapter winners to compete for a scholarship from our National Headquarters for an additional \$2,000.00 award. Last year one of our nominations won an additional award! The deadline for competing for these scholarships is 28 Feb 03. Please encourage high school seniors that you know to apply for these scholarships.

Go For It...An ASMC Continuing Educational Grant!

One of the many benefits of being a member of ASMC is that you can qualify for financial assistance for your continuing education! Both nationally and locally, The American Society of Military Comptrollers encourages and supports our members furthering their education with available monies. This year the National Headquarters will offer fifteen

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\$1,000.00 scholarships. In the past, we have had a number of our members received both local and national scholarships.

Applications for these scholarships can be found on ASMC's National website at www.asmconline.org, at our monthly luncheons, or by calling 703-706-2211. Both National and the Mt. Vernon Chapter use the same application, however, submission to National require an endorsement from our Chapter president.

Please note that there is no specification for what this money must be used. It can be used for tuition, childcare, transportations, etc.

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity presented by your professional organization!

Diane Andrews
Scholarship Director

JUST A REMINDER.....

Time is running out! Nominations for the ASMC Individual and Team Achievement Awards are due January 31, 2003. Applications may be submitted directly to the ASMC National Awards Committee and/or through our Scholarship and Awards Director, who will forward them to National. We would like to be notified of any nominations so that all the outstanding nominees can be recognized at a monthly luncheon.

Please take some time for this worthwhile endeavor. Basic information may be found at www.asmconline.org or by calling Diane Andrews at 703-706-2211. Application packets will also be available at the January monthly luncheon.





NATIONAL NEWS



PDI 2003

The National Professional Development Institute (PDI) is a premier training event for resource managers in the Department of Defense and US Coast Guard. Each year, over 3500 attendees converge for a four-day event, which includes a full day of service activities, seven general sessions, seventy workshops, and miscellaneous special events throughout the week.

PDI 2003 will be held in New Orleans on May 27-30, 2003. Exhibit and Sponsorship information will be available in late December 2002. Attendee registration information will be available in late February 2003.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - More PDI 2003 Specific Information will be available in February 2003

National Research Program

The ASMC Research Program is conducted under the guidance of the National Research Committee (NRC). The NRC has been organized to assist individuals or teams wishing to perform research under the aegis of the ASMC research program. Promotion of the research endeavor is an important role for the local ASMC chapter. [Click here](#) to obtain information about the Institutional-based Excellence in Research Award.

What is the research program? Individuals or teams wishing to conduct research for recognition by the Society are asked to submit a research proposal to the NRC in an appropriate format. Upon receipt, the NRC chairperson appoints a Project Subcommittee, consisting of at least two regular or adjunct members of the NRC. The chairperson of this subcommittee serves as the researcher's mentor and point of contact with the NRC. The subcommittee evaluates the acceptability of the proposed project and provides guidance to the researcher(s) on methodology, content and style of the final written product. The NRC also has designed appropriate formats to assist researchers in preparing their final reports.

Why do research? Research has been defined as the systematic quest for undiscovered truth. The conduct of research requires both personal dedication and the repeated stimulation or even recruitment of researchers. This best is accomplished at the local chapter level. A vigorous program will reward productive members, provide a drawing card for potential members, contribute a stimulating set of chapter activities for the program year, and help meet the requirements of various professional certification and continuing education programs.

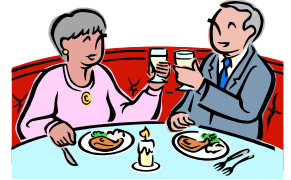
The role of the Chapter Research Chairperson is to integrate the three elements of research: The Problem, The Problem Solvers and The Research Plan. To assure success, the chapter board should select a person who is both knowledgeable of the research program and able to obtain and motivate researchers throughout the year. To ensure that a productive program emerges, the chairperson also should have good organizational skills and the ability to set and achieve milestones.

The goal of recognition is to encourage the conduct and appropriate presentation of research that enhances the body of knowledge in one or more of the comptrollership disciplines. To qualify for recognition, research projects should be of general interest to the military comptrollership community. Research on a subject unique to one DOD Component or activity may qualify but, again, it should expand upon the body of knowledge of military comptrollership. Thus, a study of avionics design would not be appropriate, but a study that analyzes cost growth for avionics and projects costs to future designs would be acceptable if adequately documented. To ensure that the researcher is on the right track, the Chapter Research Committee may forward the chosen topic to the NRC for review and approval. With respect to content, research papers should include a hypothesis with supporting field study, analysis of questionnaire results, replication of prior experiments, etc., to confirm or refute that hypothesis.

Research awards recognize individual or team efforts resulting in a specific written product that encapsulates the research effort, findings and recommendations. Recognition is made in two ways: (1) award(s) to researcher(s) of any completed reports deemed to be significant or singularly outstanding and (2) publication of worthy reports in the Armed Forces Comptroller. In addition, chapters that sponsor research efforts benefit under the Chapter Competition Program.



NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON



DATE/TIME: Thursday, 9 January 2003 / 1130

SPEAKER/TOPIC: Mr. Don Boileau, Member of the George Mason University Speakers Bureau / "How to Run an Effective Meeting"

LOCATION: Mount Vernon Inn



MENU: Option 1~ Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable.
Option 2 ~ Vegetarian Pasta Marinara w/roasted vegetables.
All meals include coffee, tea, milk, or soft drink and dessert.

COST: \$13.00 members/\$14.00 non-members

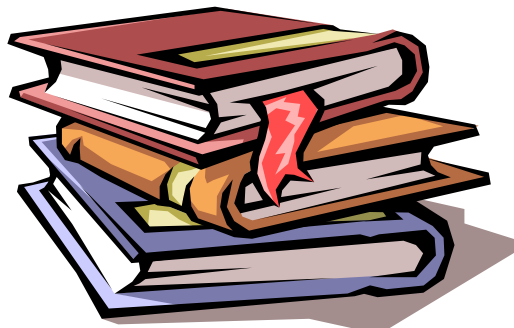
LUNCHEON TRIVIA

We did not have a winner of the Luncheon Trivia for the December luncheon. Someone missed an opportunity to win on a \$20 gift certificate to Outback Restaurant.

December Luncheon Trivia Answers:

1. Midnight Snackers - Raiders
2. Six Rulers - Vikings
3. Peter and Paul - Saints
4. Ewe's Mate - Rams
5. Indian Leaders – Chiefs

Due to time constraints there will not be a Luncheon Trivia game for the January (New Year's) Luncheon. Beginning in February the Luncheon Trivia will transition to a Lunch and Learn with questions pertaining to financial management...potential questions for the CDFM. Don't worry; there will still be a prize. So let's all learn while having fun!



FORT BELVOIR CREDIT UNION NEWS

* Let us pay your Bills Sweepstakes

Get ready for a new wave of banking at FTBFCU! We are excited to introduce our new online and audio banking systems: BOB (Belvoir Online Banking), Online BillPay and BelTel (Belvoir Telephone Banking). Managing your finances just got easier!

Use BOB to view account information in both English or Spanish, export account information to financial software, or view YTD information on all accounts. Enjoy speedier delivery of bill payments and increased payee registration with our Online BillPay!

* Sign up for Online Bill Pay and get the chance to have your 2003

January or February online bills paid by us!

One lucky FBFCU Bill Pay member will be chosen each month to get up to \$1000 for the bills they paid that month. To enter, simply use our new Online Bill Pay system to pay as many bills as you wish. Each time you pay a bill using Online Bill Pay, you are entered in the drawing. The more you pay, the more chances to win! Sign up and enter your chance to win today. Check out <http://www.ftbfcu.org/> for more details.

* VISA "Bring it Home" Promotion

Enter to win \$15,000 home shopping spree from VISA and Fort Belvoir Federal Credit Union when you apply for a VISA credit or check card! Promotion ends February 28, 2003. To enter, visit or call our branch to complete a VISA Credit or Check card application. For more details, contact a Member Service Representative or visit us online at <http://www.ftbfcu.org/> January 1st.

* Save Yourself from Holiday Spending:

Has Ho-Ho-Ho turned into No-No-No? Did the holidays overextend your budget? Call to set an appointment with our Financial Planner. We have a variety of products and services that can get you back on track by helping you create a budget that makes sense for your situation. Call Javier Sanyer at 703-781-0334 ext. 4009 to set an appointment today.

* FREE Checking with Direct Deposit

Are you looking for more options when it comes to your checking account? We've created a FREE checking account to suit your lifestyle. Convenience Checking with Direct Deposit offers absolutely FREE Checking with a complimentary box of checks. The New Year is here. Why not begin with smart money management?

Convenience Checking offers features like no minimum to open, no monthly fees, free overdraft protection, free Bill Pay with a VISA credit card or loan, and a .25 percent discount on new or used car loans. Plus, you get "Anytime- Anywhere" access to your account with BelTel and BOB! The ONLY requirement for Convenience Checking is that you have direct deposit. Come see how easy banking really is! Open a FREE Checking account today.

For additional information, please contact:

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Fax: 703-730-1410
E-mail: <mailto:sbucknor@ftbfcu.org>





DCAA

Congratulations to Karen Grechanik who obtained her CDFM certification.

DLA

New Employees:

Paul Henry is now the Deputy Comptrollers Secretary (J-8). He comes to us from Gentronics.

Phil Boswell is now in J-88/BSM Team. He comes to us from DNSC.

Departing Employees:

Kevin Bigley (J-85) went to DLA-E. Good Luck!

Employee of the Month: Shahlaurie Rawl - awarded for her superior customer service.

CDFM CORNER CONTINUED

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The December Certification meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The Certification Committee is scheduled to meet 14 January 2002. If you have issues for the certification committee, please contact one of the listed members.

Anyone interested in joining the committee, please contact Kathy Holcombe.

CDFM Helpful Hints:

Are you looking for ways to self-study for your CDFM exam...

You can begin by reviewing the following documentation:

DOD Financial Regulations,
<http://dtic.mil/comptroller/fmr>

OMB Circulars, <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>

DOD Publications, <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>

DOD "Greenbook",
<http://www.dtic.mil/comptroller/fy2003budget>

Army Cost Manual,
<http://www.ceac.army.mil/ce/default.asp>

REMEMBER: There are three components to the CDFM exams:

1. Resource Management Environment
2. Budgeting and Cost Analysis
3. Accounting and Finance

Each component has five competencies.... more to come next month.



CDFM CORNER

Certification Committee:

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THE MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE



ARTICLE BY JOE RIGGO

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade. To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby. To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper. To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet. To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed a plane. To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident. **Treasure every moment that you have! Moreover, treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.**

Remember that time waits for no one. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That is why it's called the present! Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their heart to you.

For more information please logon to
www.joeriggio.com or contact Joe Riggio at
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